

Pennyrile DEIC Minutes
September 9, 2005

Attending: Kelly Turnham, Sarah Evans, Sharon Oliver, Lori Strader, Rheanne Brummett, Robin Guynn, Molly Moller, David Girdner, Pam Rockwell, Eileen Cameron, Charla Underwood, Kathy Miller
Melanie Carter

Voting Members not present: Janet Harper, April Dill, Heather Curtis, Angela Stewart, Traci Mansfield

June Minutes: Those in attendance acted as a Committee of the Whole to approve the minutes.

Provider Update: Temesia Perdue, PSC; Lee Gill, DI; and Meghan Hurley, DI with ABC's, are no longer providing services. The most critical service gaps are DI for Crittenden and speech for Trigg. Pam Crawley is on hold. Currently Step One doesn't have any staff to cover Muhlenberg, but if someone wants to contract with that agency, let Kathy Miller know. When providers exit from First Steps, they are to notify the Central Office in writing with a termination date. It is also very important to notify PSCs, the Point of Entry office and the families so that everyone is aware of the status, as it affects replacement providers and service gaps. Also, before providers leave, they will likely have a program review.

Point of Entry Report: During June there were 17 referrals, 10 initial IFSP meetings, 45 cases carried over, a month-end caseload of 37, and 20 cases exceeding 45 days from referral to initial IFSP. For July there were 19 referrals, 6 initial IFSP meetings, 44 cases carried over, a month-end caseload of 44, and 15 cases exceeding 45 days. And in August, 29 referrals were received, 5 initial IFSPs were held, 45 cases carried over, the month-end caseload was 64, and 9 cases exceeded 45 days.

Technical Assistance Team Report:

Pam Rockwell has been working with the other parent consultants on a Parent Orientation for families entering the program, which will be offered starting in January.

The ARC of KY has been awarded a grant to create a Family-to-Family Health Care Initiative. They have trained several parents of children with special health care needs from around the state to work in their respective regions as points of contact to link families with other families to share with one another resources they have found to be helpful to them in dealing with their children's special needs. The regional representatives have been given information about what is available to families in the state and can put families in touch with organizations that can help them get their needs met. The state office is keeping a data base of information and families and is also inviting families on board as mentors to other families.

There will be a Buddy Walk at KY Oaks Mall in Paducah on Sunday, Oct. 2 at 2 PM, sponsored by the Ups and Downs Group.

Kathy reported that the DEIC was able to prepay registration fees for April Dill and her daughter to attend a conference in July. The Infant Toddler Institute was held in Lexington last month. The next PSC training module is in November in Bowling Green.

The Murray team was scheduled to present a TA Team and DEIC report at the ICC meeting Sept. 8th in Frankfort, but due to the state and university's travel restrictions, they were excused from attending. Kathy sent a DEIC report for the past year that gave information on the guest speakers, service gaps, and the DEIC membership meeting scheduled after today's PSC meeting.

Old/New Business: David Girdner asked if First Steps had been receiving referrals for Hurricane Katrina evacuees. This could affect the program and Medicaid issues to provide services to the children.

There will be a DEIC membership meeting at noon, following the PSC meeting time, to discuss recruiting more members.

The DEIC brochures have not been printed yet. It was motioned and seconded that \$500 be spent for printing the brochures at Murray State. Kathy & Pam will follow up with this.

Ideas/topics for guest speakers at upcoming meetings were Joe Farless from Pennyrile Allied Community Services, a fatherhood initiative event/speaker in conjunction with Community Collaboration for Children, KIDSNOW programs update, community resource programs for children in poverty, or some of the programs that have representatives at the Christian County Interagency meetings.

Guest Speakers:

Kelly Turnham, Western KY Assistive Technology Center, presented an overview on ordering or obtaining loaned AT equipment. She gave a correction on how to fill out the CBIS summary sheet when requesting a loan. Rather than listing the number of months the loan is for (as in how many bills are generated), put the actual number of items being loaned or purchased.

When an IFSP team is getting ready to recommend equipment for loan or purchase, there may be a need for an assessment. If the team doesn't have a member to do an assessment or the team needs ideas, call WKATC to ask questions or schedule an assessment. Due to the distance involved, it may take some time to allow for scheduling several assessments to maximize the time and travel from Owensboro. If an assessment is referred to WKATC, the effective date on the CBIS summary sheet should be 30 days after the date of the IFSP or amendment to the IFSP to allow for time to schedule and complete the assessment. To find out if items are available for loan before purchasing, go online to www.wkatc.org/firststeps or call WKATC at 800-209-6202.

If someone knows of equipment that was loaned to a family that needs to be returned, WKATC is working with the TA team and service coordinators to get the equipment back. Items should not be loaned to second or third families, but returned after the original loan has ended.

Either in October or November, the WKATC will be able to purchase equipment. Right now EnTech or one of the other AT centers in the state will do purchases.

Dede Grabara, a lawyer specializing in estate planning, spoke about families planning ahead to provide for their child's special needs. In case something happens to the parents, who would help with the child's long-term care or assistance, physical, and financial care? If the family or child is receiving government benefits, they may be impacted in certain situations. For example, if a parent passes away and their child was receiving SSI & a medical card, the child is eligible for Social Security benefits from the parent but would lose the medical card and/or SSI. Thinking ahead to where and with whom the child might live in adulthood is also a factor to consider.

Families that want to set up a trust should consider what they have for assets (such as life insurance, real estate, inheritances, etc) and if it's worth at least \$25,000, then Ms Grabara advises that a trust could be used. There are several types of trusts, however, it's important to consider the background and experience of whom to work with so that the right kind of trust will be of the most help to the child. For planning of this nature, whether working with a local lawyer, West Kentucky Legal Aid, lawyers in Louisville or Lexington, or financial planners, check to be sure that the person specializes in estate planning and that they work in-depth to obtain information to individualize the will/plans/trust for the family and child. Ms Grabara welcomes calls from families and can give several names to parents to find someone to help them with their estate planning. She can be reached at 270-424-8309.

It was mentioned that another resource for estate planning is Carolyn Wheeler from the Institute for Human Development (IHDI) at the University of Kentucky. The DEIC may try to invite her to the region to speak about planning for special needs trusts and have consultations with individual families.

Next Meeting: Friday, December 2, 9:00 AM at Hopkinsville ADD Office, 300 Hammond AVE.
The PSC Meeting will be from 9:30 – 12:30.